

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 18-45, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) An assay for identifying a [substance] peptide or small organic compound that inhibits the specific interaction of a host cell protein, that is not a cell surface receptor protein, with a viral protein required for viral infection, replication, assembly or release, comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide containing an amino acid sequence corresponding to the binding site of the host cell protein with a protein or peptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to the binding site of the viral protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and the formation of a complex, in the presence of a test [substance] peptide or small organic compound, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of the test [substance] peptide or small organic compound to inhibit the interaction between the host cell protein and the viral protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test [substance] peptide or small organic compound.

2. (amended) An assay for identifying a [substance] peptide or small organic compound that inhibits the interaction of influenza virus [NP] nucleoprotein with a host cell protein comprising:

(a) contacting a protein or peptide containing an amino acid sequence corresponding to the binding site of influenza virus [NP] nucleoprotein with a protein or peptide containing an amino acid sequence corresponding to the binding site of the host cell protein, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit binding and formation of a complex, in the presence of a test [substance] peptide or small organic compound, and

(b) detecting the formation of a complex, in which the ability of a test [substance] peptide or small organic compound to inhibit the interaction between influenza virus [NP] nucleoprotein and the host cell protein is indicated by a decrease in complex formation as compared to the amount of complex formed in the absence of the test [substance] peptide or small organic compound.

3. (amended) The assay of Claim 2 in which the host cell protein is [NPI-1] nucleoprotein interactor-1.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended, pursuant to the Examiner's request, so that the references to the figures in the specification conform with the identifiers of the figures themselves, pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.118(a). Specifically, references in the specification to Figure 2 now indicate FIGS. 2A-B, references to Figure 8 now indicate FIGS. 8A-C, references to Figure 12 now indicate FIGS. 12A-B, and references to Figure 15 now indicate FIGS.